

BOISE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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October 30, 1997

RECEIVED BY U.S. FISH
AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY
COORDINATORS OFFICE

Dr. Chris Servheen, Grizzly Bear Coordinator
US Fish & Wildlife Service
PO Box 5127
Missoula, MT 59806

NOV 05 1997

Dear Dr. Servheen:

The Boise County, Idaho, Board of Commissioners would like to express Boise County's opposition to the government reintroduction of grizzly bears into the State of Idaho. It is our opinion that as a "threatened" species, grizzly bears are sufficiently protected in other areas of North America to ensure their continued survivability as a species.

There are many inconsistencies and apparent violations of the Endangered Species Act contained in the draft Environmental Impact Statement's Alternatives 1 and 3. These inconsistencies and violations have been documented by comments submitted to you by Idaho state agencies and other Idaho counties and are, therefore, not repeated herein. It is our position that, even if the draft EIS were internally consistent and all proposed alternatives were in compliance with federal law, the cost of government reintroduction of grizzly bears is not justified.

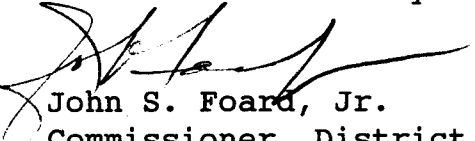
1 We believe this position is fully supported by one of the documents cited on page 1-3 of the draft EIS, "Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Grizzly Bears in the Bitterroot Area of Idaho and Montana (USFWS 1997)". As a "nonessential" project which does not directly result in the removal of the "threatened" classification of grizzly bears, establishment of an experimental population is a significant waste of U.S. taxpayers' money with very marginal gains.

2 We also note that the actual number of livestock killed by wolves is much higher than was predicted in the Wolf EIS. Our

- 2 | additional concern about government reintroduction of grizzly
bears into Idaho is you may have again underestimated the
potential danger to livestock. And, if you have underestimated
livestock, then the probability exists that you have
3 | underestimated the danger to humans as well. Is this project
worth one human life per year? If you missed the estimate, is it
worth two or more lives per year? We think not.

It is our position that if you must proceed with this "fleecing of America", the only viable alternative in the draft EIS is Alternative 2, "The No Action Alternative - Natural Recovery"

For the Boise County Board of Commissioners



John S. Foard, Jr.
Commissioner, District 2